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STORIES OF OUR HOLIDAYS

BY
ISABEL M. HORSFORD

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Stories of Our Holidays

By

Isabel M. Horsford

Teacher in William E. Endicott School
Boston, Massachusetts

"My country! 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing."

Silver, Burdett & Company

Boston

New York

Chicago

12

591246

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carpenter

labor

parade

straight

September

music

holiday

workingmen

honest

My father is a carpenter.

He knows how to build houses.

I like to watch him work.

He has a big box full of tools.

I like to see him drive the nails.

He holds the hammer in his right hand.

The nails go in straight.

They go in just the right places.

He did not go to work to-day.

This is a holiday. This is Labor Day.



A LABOR DAY PARADE

Labor Day comes in September.

It is the first Monday.

I think that it is a queer name for a holiday.

My father said that labor means work.

Labor Day is a day for the workingmen.

On Labor Day they have a parade, like the one in the picture.

Father and I went to see the parade.

I like to see parades.

I like to see the men march.

I like to hear the music.

It makes me want to march too.

Left! Right! Left! Right!

That is what the music says to me.

Some day I may be in a parade.

I may be in the parade on Labor Day.
Father says that it is good for men to
work.

He says that it is good for little boys.

Then work is good for me.

What can a little boy do?

This is what my father said.

Do your best wherever you are.

That means at home and at school.

Help every one you can.

Be honest and brave and pure.

That is the kind of boys we want.

That is the kind of workingmen we
need.

Our country needs them on Labor
Day.

Our country needs them every day.

Christopher Columbus

I

Christopher	sailor	friend	strange
Columbus	learned	captain	listen
Italy	guide	storms	questions

Christopher Columbus !

Isn't that a long name ?

I think I can remember it. Can you ?

Columbus lived a long, long time ago.

His home was in Italy.

Italy is a sunny country.

The sky is very blue there.

The water too is blue and pretty.

Columbus lived near the sea.

He liked to play in the sand.

He liked to watch the boats.

I think he made some play-boats,
don't you ?

He said, "Some day I shall be a man.

Then I will have a boat all my own.

I will sail and sail away over the sea.

Do you think I shall be afraid ?

Oh, no, I shall be very, very brave."

Columbus had much to learn.

He was going to be a sailor.

So he learned all about the stars.

He learned their names.

This would help him to sail his boat.

The stars would be his guide.

He learned how to make maps.

Some day you will learn to make maps.

He made a map of his city.



THE BOY COLUMBUS

From the statue by Monteverde in the Boston Art Museum

He made one of his country.

He made one of the world.

Nobody knew about our country then.

So Columbus did not put our country
on his map.

Little Columbus had a sailor friend.

His friend was a sea captain.

What stories that captain could
tell!—stories about the big blue sea,
stories of storms and stories of sunshine,
stories of strange people and strange
lands.

Oh, how Columbus would listen!

Columbus was like all other boys.

He asked his friend many questions.

Sometimes his friend would sail away.

Columbus would say good-by to him.

“Some day I will go too,” he would say to himself.

At last there came a happy day.

Columbus was fourteen years old.

How many years is it before you will be fourteen?

Columbus had a chance to go to sea.

His sailor friend took him away in his boat.

Columbus had still much more to learn.

So he worked hard and he studied hard.

He learned about ships.

He learned about the sea.

At last he grew to be a wise and brave captain.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

From a painting by Del Piombo, property of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

II

India	nobody	crazy
brought	money	Spain
ocean	enough	Isabella

In those days sailors went to India.

They brought back many things from India.

It was a long, hard trip.

Columbus thought that he could find a shorter way.

The other sailors always went to the east.

Columbus wanted to sail to the west.

What do you think they called the ocean on the west?

They called it the "Dark Sea."



Vaclav von Brouk

COLUMBUS BEFORE QUEEN ISABELLA

Nobody knew anything about it.

Columbus wanted to find out about it.

He wanted to look for a shorter way to India.

But he was a poor man.

He did not have money enough to buy a boat of his own.

He asked his friends to help him.

They shook their heads.

They thought that he was crazy.

At last he found help in Spain.

The Queen of Spain helped him.

Her name was Queen Isabella.

She gave him money enough to buy three ships.

That made Columbus very happy.

III

present	surely	beautiful
branch	ahead	Indians
floating	October	America

One day these three ships sailed away from Spain.

They sailed to the west.

They were going where no one had ever been.

They were sailing on the "Dark Sea."

People said that they would never come back.

Columbus told them that they were going to find a shorter way to India.

They sailed for many long days.

The sailors thought that they were lost.

They tried to make Columbus turn back.

Columbus was very brave.

He tried to make his sailors brave.

He said, "Sail three days more.

I will give a present to the man who sees land first."

A flock of birds flew by the ships.

The branch of a tree came floating by.

There were red berries on the branch.

Surely land must be near.

One night a sailor saw a light ahead.

In the morning they saw the land.

How glad Columbus was!

How glad the sailors were!

They all went ashore.
It was October twelfth.
They had come to a beautiful land.
Columbus thought that it was India.
So he called the people Indians.
Now we know that it was not India.
It was our own dear land, America.



COLUMBUS' SHIP

Photograph from a Reproduction made for the Columbian
Exposition, 1893



The Pumpkins' Story

pumpkins

spread

queer

tried

autumn

Jack-o'-lanterns

poked

happen

Hallowe'en

wondered

Can pumpkins tell a story?

Oh, yes, we surely can.

Once we were little seeds, little
hard white seeds.

We were planted in the ground.

Oh, how very dark it was!

Something told us to grow.

So we tried as hard as we could.

We pushed up, up, up.

One day we poked our heads above
the ground.

It was a beautiful bright day.

How good the sunlight seemed!

We liked it better than the dark
ground.

We liked the warm sunshine.

It was pleasant to see the blue sky.

We kept on growing and growing.

Our leaves grew big.

Our vines spread over the ground.

We had pretty yellow blossoms.

When the blossoms went away,
pumpkins began to grow.

At first we were very little.

The sun and rain helped us.

We grew big and round and fat.

All summer long we grew.
Now the autumn days have come.
Farmer Brown looked at us and
smiled.

He said, "My pumpkins have done
well."

That made us feel very proud.
His little boy was with him.
He said something to his father.
His father laughed and said yes.
We knew that something was going
to happen.

We wondered what it could be.
Now we have found out.
The little boy picked us off the vine.
He cut out all the inside part.
See what big round eyes he made!

See our queer little noses!
Look at our funny mouths.
Inside you will see little candles.
After dark they will be lighted.
Do not jump when we look in at
the window.
Do not be afraid when you see us
on the steps.
Do not run if you see us on the
fence.
We are Jack-o'-lanterns now.
We shall have a merry time.
To-night is Hallowe'en.



Voting Day

rulers	wonder	careful
certain	ballot	mistake
voting	empty	address
machine	possible	

In our country the people choose their own rulers.

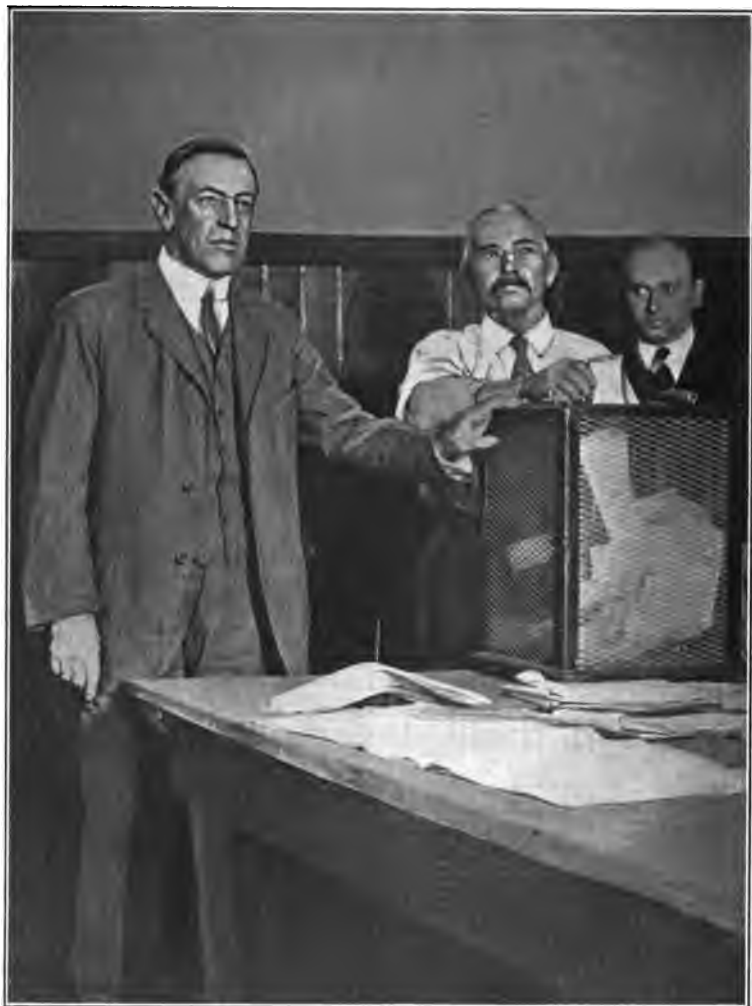
Every year there are certain days for choosing them.

We call these days voting days.

Do you know when these days come ?

Let us play that it is voting day.

Father is all ready to go and vote.



WOODROW WILSON AT THE BALLOT BOX

At the election of 1912 when he was made President

I wonder if he knows just how he is going to vote.

Each voter must go to a certain place on voting day.

So Father walks along until he comes to his voting place.

He walks in and tells his name and where he lives.

A man looks to see whether Father's name is on the list.

When he finds it, he crosses it off.

Then he gives Father a ballot.

Do you know what a ballot is?

It is a paper with names on it, — the names of the men to be voted for.

Father takes his ballot.

All around the room are little places like boxes.

He walks to an empty one and looks over his ballot.

Sometimes it is long, and he has to be very careful.

He takes a pencil, and puts a cross beside the name of the man for whom he wants to vote.

Oh, dear! he has made a mistake.

Now he must go and get a new ballot.

This time he will be very careful. He will not make any mistakes.

Now he has finished.

He has put the crosses just where he wants them.

He takes his ballot to another man and once more tells his name and address.

He puts his ballot into a machine that quickly rolls it out of sight.

When the time for voting is over, the ballots are taken out and the votes are counted.

Father wants to know just as soon as possible who got the most votes.

He will find out when he reads the paper the next morning.

Does any one know how old a man must be before he can vote?

Will you have to wait very long before that time?



G. H. Boughton

PILGRIMS ON THEIR WAY TO CHURCH

The Story of the Pilgrims

I

fortunes

Plymouth

Pilgrims

Massachusetts

Long ago the Indians lived in our country.

We call the Indians red men.

I wonder who can tell why.

There were no white people here then.

Columbus was a white man.

He found the Indians here.

After Columbus many more white men came to America.

Some came to see the country.

Some came to make their fortunes.

Others came here to live.

Would you like to read about the Pilgrims ?

They came here to make new homes.

Fathers and mothers came.

Little boys and girls came too.

They came in the winter time.

They called their new home Plymouth.

Some day you may go to Plymouth.

Plymouth is in Massachusetts.

I know you will like to see where the Pilgrims landed.

II

England	Holland	Mayflower
church	Dutch	through
prison	windmill	Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims lived in England.

They loved their country very much.

But they wanted to be free.

The king said, "These people must do just as I tell them to do.

"They must go to my church.

"If they do not, I will put them in prison."

So the Pilgrims left England.

They thought that was the best thing to do.

First they went to Holland.



Turner

A DUTCH WINDMILL

Dutch people live in Holland.

There are many windmills in Holland.

So we call Holland the "land of windmills."

These people were very kind to the Pilgrims.

Still the Pilgrims could not stay there.

They said, "We must have a home of our own."

So they said good-by to their friends in Holland.

Then they sailed away to America.

They sailed in a boat called the Mayflower.

They were on the ocean a long time.

It was winter when they reached America.

Snow was on the ground.

It was very, very cold.

The men had to cut down trees.

Then they built a log house.

It was not a very warm house.

Sometimes the snow would blow in at the windows.

The wind would blow through the cracks.

Sometimes they did not have much to eat.

Some of the people died.

By and by spring came.

The ice and snow melted away.

The days grew warmer.

The Pilgrims made friends with the Indians.

The Indians told them how to plant corn.

The Pilgrim boys helped their fathers.

Sometimes they went fishing.

The Indians showed them the best places.

The Pilgrim girls helped their mothers.

Everybody worked hard all summer.

In the autumn the corn was ripe.

They had enough to last all winter.

Oh, how happy they were!

"God is good to us," they said.

"We have so many good things.



THE FIRST THANKSGIVING DINNER

“We must thank God for all these good things.

“Let us have a Thanksgiving Day.”

So they had a Thanksgiving Day.

In the morning, they went to church.

They thanked God for all the good things.

After church they had a Thanksgiving dinner.

The Pilgrim mothers cooked the dinner.

The little girls helped their mothers.

Who do you think came to this Thanksgiving dinner?

The Indians, who had been so kind to the Pilgrims.

That was our first Thanksgiving Day.

A Letter to Santa Claus

Maine	wrong	behind
December	empty	puzzle
mistakes	yesterday	reindeer
chimney	fireplace	

BATH, MAINE

December 20, 1914

Dear Santa Claus,

I have just learned to write a letter.

I do make some mistakes.

But my mother tells me what is wrong and then I write it over again.

I thought that I must write to you.

Last year we lived in Boston.

You came to us there.

But now we are living with grandfather and grandmother.

We came here just before Thanksgiving Day.

If you should go to our old house in Boston you would find it empty.

Then what would you do with our presents?

I am sure that you will find this house.

Mother says that you used to come here when she was a little girl.

So you must remember the way.

Brother Frank wants you to bring him a sled.

Yesterday he went coasting on the hill behind the barn.

He ran into a tree and broke his sled.
I hope you will bring him a new one.
We all like to go coasting.

Frank also wants a train and a picture
puzzle.

I would like a pair of skates and a
workbox.

All my friends are learning to skate
this winter.

Mother is teaching me how to sew.
I need a workbox very much.

Do you remember my little sister
Edith?

She is so little that she does not
remember you, Santa.

I have told her all about you and
your eight little reindeer.

I told her how you came down the chimney when we were asleep.

She clapped her little hands and asked me to tell it again.

Edith wants a doll, a doll's bed, and a picture book.

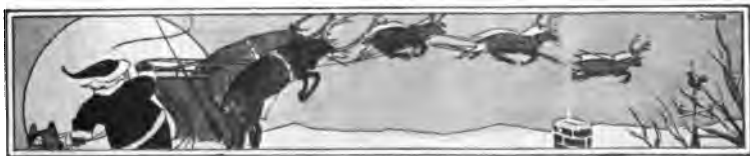
We are going to hang our stockings by the big fireplace.

I wish I might see you when you come down the chimney.

But I know I shall be fast asleep, so I wish you a merry Christmas.

With love from your little friend,

MARION.





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WAITING FOR THE NEW YEAR CHIMES
Outside Trinity Church, New York

New Year's Day

hear

month

season

perhaps

January

vacation

birthday

colors

A happy New Year, boys and girls!

A happy New Year to all!

I am the little new year.

I came last night when you were all
sound asleep.

You did not hear me come.

Listen and hear my merry bells.

They are ringing for a glad new year.

Ding-dong! Ding-dong! Ding-dong!

They tell us all to be happy.

Open your doors and let me come in.

Do you know what I am bringing?
A whole long year of days.

They are coming after me one by one.

Perhaps you can tell how many there are.

Each day will bring something new.

To each little boy and to each little girl I bring a birthday.

May it be a very happy day!

The days will come along in months.

Do you know the names of all the months?

January is the first month, and New Year's Day is the first day.

I bring the four seasons,—spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Which season do you like best?

It is winter now, and snow is on the ground.

You can use the sled and skates that Santa Claus brought you.

By and by spring will come.

The birds will come back from the sunny South.

The trees will put on their green dresses, and the flowers will grow.

Do you like the spring better than the winter?

Summer will come and bring you a long vacation.

I know that you like long vacations.

The days are long, and the sun is bright in summer.

When autumn comes you will be
ready for school again.

The apples will be ripe.

Jack Frost will come to dress the
trees in bright colors.

He will open the chestnut burrs.

He will put ice on the ponds, and
paint pictures on the windows.

When the snow comes again and
the sleigh bells ring, I know that
Christmas will soon be here.

Then I know my time is growing
short and I must say good-by.

But there is always a new year
coming.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow.

Abraham Lincoln

I

true
story
great

Abraham
Lincoln

February
built
taught

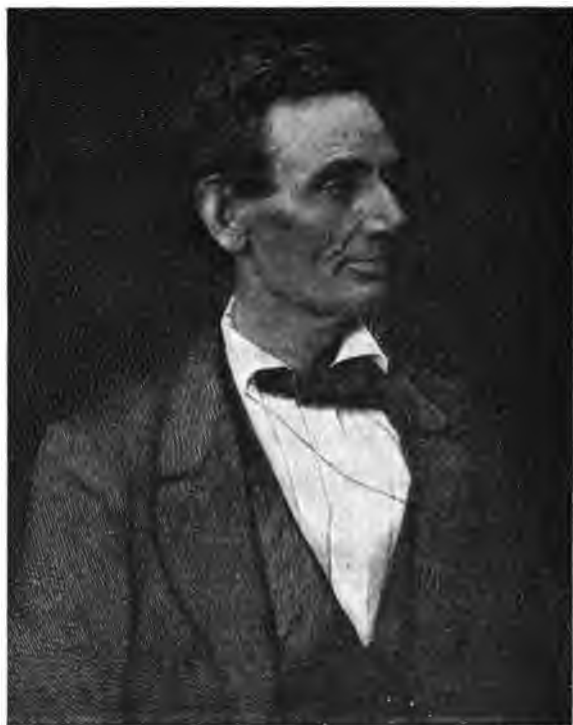
This is a true story about a great man.

His name is Abraham Lincoln.

His birthday comes on February twelfth.

When he was a little boy he was very poor.

He lived in a log house. His father built the house, and little Abraham helped him.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN AS PRESIDENT

The house was in the woods, far away from every one.

There was no schoolhouse. So little Abraham could not go to school.

How do you think he learned to read?

His mother taught him to read.

There were only a few books for Abraham to read. So he would read each one over and over again.

Abraham's mother would tell him stories too.

What story do you think he liked best?

It was the story about George Washington.

II

happiest
wooden

shovel
hungry

hurt
animals

But by and by a schoolhouse was built. How happy Abraham was, for now he could go to school. He was the happiest boy in the world.

His teacher lent him books, and helped Abraham all he could.

After school Abraham had work to do. When the work was done, he read his books. He would lie down before the fire and study hard.

His father was too poor to buy paper, so he wrote on a wooden shovel. Would you like to write on a wooden shovel?



YOUNG LINCOLN STUDYING BY FIRELIGHT

Sometimes the family were so hungry that Abraham would have to take his gun and go hunting for birds and squirrels in the woods.

He did not like to hurt the little animals, but it was the only way to get food.

III

always	trouble	elected	between
brave	president	war	serve

Abraham grew to be a good man.

He was always honest and brave.

He was always trying to help others.

He liked to make others happy.

There came a time of great trouble in our country.

The people said, "We need a wise man for our leader.

"We want Lincoln for our president."

So Lincoln was elected president.

He went to Washington and lived in the White House.

He was president at the time of the great war between the North and the South.

During all that time he was just the wise leader that our country needed.

By his life he showed how every man should love and serve his country.



THE WHITE HOUSE



Valentine's Day

Valentine

heart

tiny

secret

pasted

until

To-morrow is Saint Valentine's Day.

I have such a big, big secret.
Would you like to know my secret?
Well it is this:

I made a valentine all by myself.
I made it for my mother. She does
not know anything about it, because it
is a secret.

I cut my valentine out of pretty
white paper. It is just like a big
heart.

I pasted some pretty pictures on it.
Then I pasted tiny red hearts on it.
Oh, it is a beautiful valentine.

Inside I wrote something. I wrote,
"I love you, mother." Do you think
she will know that I sent it?

I shall drop my valentine into the
letter-box. Then the postman will
get it.

He will come to our door and ring
the bell. When mother goes to the
door she will get my valentine.

It is a long time until to-morrow.

Will to-morrow ever come?

I want mother to get that valentine.
It is so hard for a little girl to wait.



John Faed

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington

I

twenty-second

speak

horseback

truth

obey

Who was our first president ?

I am sure you all know his name,—
George Washington.

His birthday comes in February.
It comes on February twenty-second.

Once he was a little boy.

He liked to play just as you do.

He liked to play soldier. Sometimes
he would be the captain.

He liked to ride horseback.

Do you like to run races? Well, George Washington did too.

He went to school, and there he learned to read and write and spell.

His mother taught him to speak the truth. She taught him to obey his father and mother.

Washington grew tall and strong.

He said, "I must be a help to my mother. I should like to be a sailor."

He wanted to sail away over the sea.

His mother said, "No, I cannot let you go. I need my son at home with me."

So Washington went back to school and studied hard.

One day a friend said, "George Washington is a fine young man. I want him to take care of my lands."

Now these lands were in the woods. They were far away from any town or city. There were miles and miles of land where no white man had been before.

There were many Indians in the woods.

Do you think that Washington was afraid? Oh, no, he was strong and brave.

He went and marked out the land. He learned to know the Indians too.

Whatever he did, he did well.

II

chose
general

Cambridge
shouted

cheered
elm

One day our soldiers needed a leader.
Whom do you think they chose?

I know that you will all say the right name. They chose George Washington. They made him their general.

Most of the soldiers were in Cambridge. So Washington went to Cambridge.

All the soldiers were glad to see him. They shouted for joy. Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! They cheered him again and again.

Washington stood under an elm tree. We now call it the "Washington elm."

Some day you will go to Cambridge and see the place where Washington stood so many years ago.

How the soldiers loved their new general! We love him too. We call him the "Father of Our Country."



THE "WASHINGTON ELM" AT CAMBRIDGE



MOUNT VERNON

III

Mt. Vernon	Potomac	New York	received
Virginia	quiet	capital	peace

For eight long years Washington was the leader of our soldiers.

At last the war was over and the soldiers went back to their homes.

Washington went to his home at Mt. Vernon, Virginia.

Mt. Vernon is a beautiful place on the banks of the Potomac river. He wanted to stay at home now and live the quiet life of a farmer.

But our country still needed a leader.

There was no one so loved and trusted by all the people as George Washington.

So he was chosen to be our first president.

He left his beautiful home in Virginia and started for New York. New York was the capital of our country then.

It took Washington a long time to reach New York. The people all wanted to show how much they loved their first president.

Wherever he went he was received with shouts of joy and gladness.

We like to think of George Washington as —

First in war,

First in peace,

First in the hearts of his countrymen.

Betsey Ross and Our Flag

thirteen

corner

stripes

state

pattern

Would you like to hear another story about George Washington?

Here is one about him and our flag.

Our country did not have any flag. Washington said, "We must have a flag."

He went with some other men to see a lady whose name was Betsey Ross.



Mrs. Ross showing Washington the Flag

Washington said, "We want you to help us, Mrs. Ross. We want you to make a flag for our country."

Mrs. Ross said, "I will try to help you. How shall I make the flag?"

Washington said, "We want thirteen stripes, — six white stripes and seven red ones. In the corner we want a blue field. In the blue field put a star for each state. Here is a pattern for the stars."

Washington's star had six points. Mrs. Ross looked at the pattern. She shook her head.

She said, "The stars in the sky have five points. I will make a pattern with five points."

Washington liked her pattern better. So the stars on our flag have five points.

The flag that Mrs. Ross made was our first flag.

Now there are many stars on our flag. Do you know how many stars there are?

If you do, you know how many states there are. There is a star for every state.

What is the name of your state?

Do you know what the flag tells us?

Red tells us to be brave. White tells us to be pure. Blue tells us to be true.

A Story of a Kind Deed

For Humane Day

cruel

creature

reason

really

hurried

spied

If some one were telling a story about you, would you like to have it said that you were cruel and unkind? You think that is a queer question for me to ask, don't you?

Still I have heard of some little boys and girls who were really very cruel. They did not mean to be cruel, but they just forgot.

Now to-day is a day to talk about being kind to every living creature.

Here is a story for you to read and think about.

Once upon a time a boy named Peter found a poor little toad out in the road. He ran to find his playmate and cried, "Come, John, come quick! Here is a toad. Let's throw stones at him and kill him."

Back they hurried, filling their pockets with stones as they went along and thinking, "What fun we shall have!"

Just as they got back a donkey came along dragging a heavy cart. The load was so heavy that he hung his head down, and that was the reason he spied the little toad.

The little creature lay there in the middle of the road, taking his morning nap in the sunshine.

Do you suppose the donkey saw the boys and knew what they were going to do?

I do not know about that, but this is what that donkey did. He bent his head and gave the toad a shove with his warm nose. The toad awoke, and with a hop and jump was soon out of the road.

The donkey looked at Peter and John, then hung his head and started on.

"Oh, John," said Peter, "did you see that donkey and what he did? I



AN HUMBLE SERVANT

Rosa Bonheur

am sorry I thought of killing that toad."

"So am I," said John. "I am ashamed of myself."

And the story says that Peter and John tried to show that they were sorry, by helping this donkey with his heavy load as he went up the hill.

When the donkey was out of sight and they had gone back to their play, they made up their minds that to be kind to all animals was really the best fun after all.

Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits.



From the statue at Concord.

A MINUTEMAN

The Story of a Minuteman

Revere	Concord	before	shouted
minuteman	Lexington	lantern	nineteenth
British	powder	signal	April

Paul Revere was a minuteman. He lived in Boston many years ago.

There were many minutemen in Boston.

Do you know why they were called minutemen? They were ready any minute.

What were they ready to do? They were ready to fight for their country.



PAUL REVERE'S RIDE

At this time there were many British soldiers in Boston. We call them Redcoats, Can you tell why?

They were going to march by night to Concord and Lexington. We had some powder and guns there. They wanted to get our powder and guns.

Paul Revere heard about it. He made up his mind to get word to the minutemen in Concord and Lexington.

So he left Boston before the Redcoats.

One of his friends was to let him know which way the Redcoats were going.

His friend said, "If the British leave by land, I will hang one lantern in

the old North Church. If they leave by boat I will hang two lanterns."

Paul Revere waited for the signal.

At last two lanterns shone out from the old North Church. That told him that the British were leaving Boston by boat.

He jumped on his horse and started off. He rode fast all night.

He woke the people. He shouted, "The British are coming!"

In the morning the minutemen were ready to fight the Redcoats.

The Redcoats went back to Boston. They did not get the powder and guns. This was on the nineteenth of April, 1775.



Arbor Day

Arbor forest driven often

Arbor Day means Tree Day. It is a day for planting trees.

We need many trees in our country.

The trees give us wood to make houses and tables and chairs. Some of the tall trees make masts for ships.

We need trees to shade us in summer. The birds need the trees too.

Sometimes there are forest fires that burn up many trees.

At first they are little fires. But soon they grow bigger and bigger.

The birds leave their nests and fly far away. The squirrels and all the other animals are driven from their homes.

The men fight the fire night and day. Often the fire burns for many days. The men work hard and get very tired, but they are very brave.

Many trees are used every year. We must plant new trees to take their places.

April is a good time to plant trees. Our Arbor Day comes in April.

I have a little spade. My father gave it to me and told me I might help him.

We dug a hole and are going to plant a maple tree in it. It is a little tree now. I will take good care of it.

Each year it will grow taller and stronger. I shall grow tall and strong too.

When I am a man, my maple will be a big tree. The birds will build their nests in it. We shall all like to rest in its pleasant shade.

Would you like to plant a tree? I think it is great fun. Just try and see.



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MAY DAY IN CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK
The herald, the king and queen, and the loyal subjects

May Day

dainty

hospital

colored

village

group

Have you ever heard of May Day? It comes on the first day of the month.

In England May Day has been a holiday for a long, long time.

Suppose you were going to have a May Day, what would you do? Let me tell you what I should like to do.

May is the month when the buds on the trees have become tiny green leaves. The seeds that were asleep in

the dark ground are just waking up. The first spring flowers are getting ready to blossom as the warm sun shines upon them.

Early in the morning we will go to the woods and meadows to look for wild flowers. I wonder who will find the first violets. Perhaps some one will find some of the beautiful May-flowers.

If Jack Frost stayed too long and the spring is late, we may not find many flowers. Still the spring flowers are brave, and they will blossom in spite of cold winds. So I am sure that we shall not come home with empty baskets.

Now we will fill our May baskets. Here they are, all made of dainty colored paper. Fill them part way with candy, then put the flowers on top.

Would you not like to send this pink basket to a little girl who is sick in the hospital?

I know a little lame boy who cannot go to the woods to gather flowers. Let us send him this green and white one. It will make him very happy.

In England the boys and girls always have a dance on the village green. We should call the green a park, or playground.

The tall Maypole is set up in the middle of the green. Tied to the top

of the pole are long, bright-colored ribbons. Each dancer holds in his hand the end of a ribbon. As the children skip round and round, and in and out, the ribbons twist around the pole.

It is a pretty sight, and one that we should all like to see.

In New York on some pleasant day in May the school children march to one of the parks. Each group has a Maypole. They dance and sing and play games around their Maypole.

The children think that this is one of the happiest days in the whole year. I think I should think so, too, if I were a little boy or girl and went to school in New York.

Peace Day

I

Russia	quarrel	statue
nations	umpire	generous
invitation	palace	border

Some years ago the ruler of Russia sent a letter to all the different nations. This letter was an invitation.

It said, "Nations often have quarrels with each other. They think that the only way to settle the quarrel is to have a war.

"Now we all know that there is a better way.

“So let each nation choose three or four of its best men to meet together, and let us see if they cannot find this better way.”

This letter was a great surprise to the different nations. However, it was a glad surprise. They were all glad to choose men to go to this meeting.

The Queen of Holland asked these men to come to her country. She invited them to hold their meeting in a beautiful house, called “The House in the Woods.”

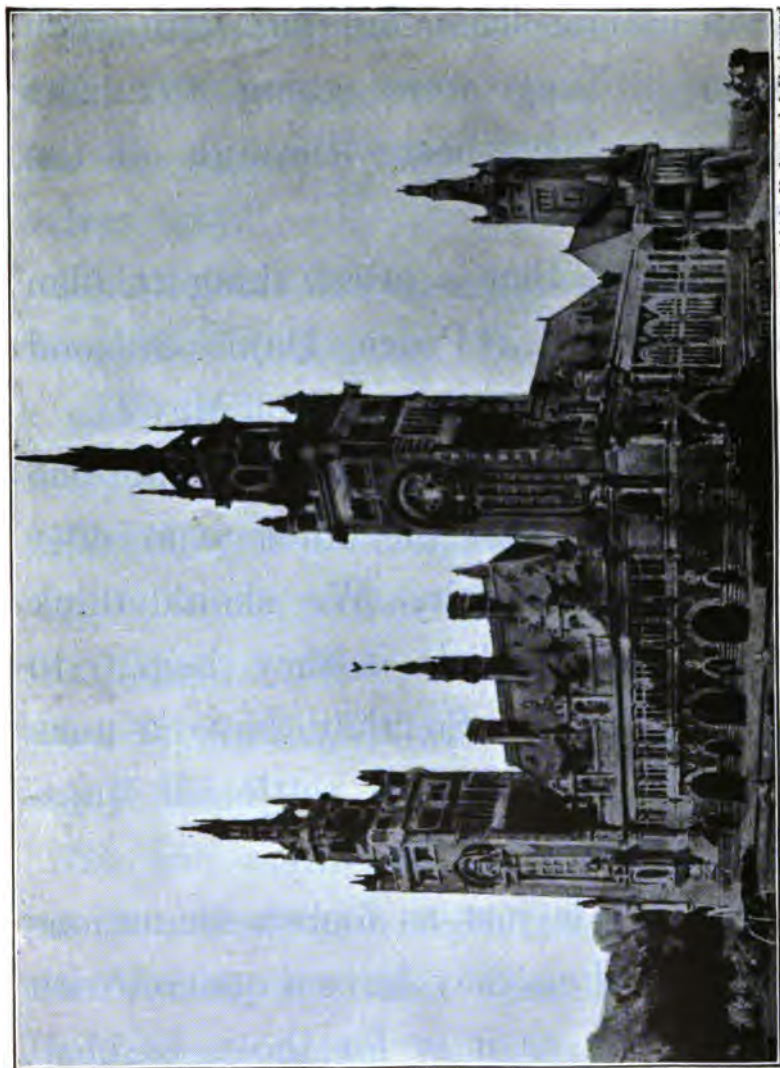
On the eighteenth of May, 1899, one hundred men from all over the world met in this beautiful place. They were going to make plans to

keep nations from fighting with each other. They were going to make plans to keep peace through all the world.

Was not that a great thing to plan for? Is not "Peace Day" a good name for the eighteenth of May?

Sometimes at a baseball game one team thinks that the other team does not play quite fair. We should think them very foolish if they began to fight about it. So they have a man, called the umpire, to settle all questions.

Now, it is just as foolish for nations to fight when they have a quarrel with each other, as it is for those baseball



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THE PEACE PALACE AT THE HAGUE

teams. So at this meeting in Holland, it was planned that a certain number of men from the different nations should be the umpires.

Two nations who have a quarrel may go to the umpires and say, "Let us tell you about our quarrel. Then you may tell us the right way to settle it."

Some of the best and wisest men in the world helped to make this plan. They know that it is not yet perfect. But it is a good beginning.

A rich man gave a large sum of money to build a meeting place for these umpires. With this money Holland has built the Palace of Peace.

Some day when you go to Holland, you will want to see this building. You will want to see the presents that the different nations have given to make it beautiful. The United States has given a statue for the first landing on the staircase.

II

Boys and girls, too, can help to bring the day when all nations shall live in peace.

Children, like nations, often quarrel, but if you begin now to be generous and polite to your playmates, you will be doing just what the nations are trying to do.

Have you ever seen the "Peace Flag" ?

For our country, it is our own flag with a border of white, and the words, "Peace for all nations," across the top. Each country has its own flag in the middle, with the same kind of border and the same words.

Suppose the little boys and girls in all the different nations are learning now the lessons of kindness and helpfulness that this flag stands for. Suppose we learn that the "Peace Flag" means kindness to people of all nations. Surely the day of peace will be much nearer when you boys and girls have grown to be men and women.

Decoration Day

civil	Memorial	because
forget	Decoration	women
comrades	graves	indeed

Once there was a great war in our country. We call it the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln was president then.

The soldiers of the North fought the soldiers of the South.

The soldiers of the North were called the "Boys in Blue." The soldiers of the South were called the "Boys in Gray."

After a long time the war was over.



A SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

Some of the soldiers were killed.

The soldiers who were not killed did not want to forget their comrades.

So we have a day every year when we remember our soldiers. We call that day Memorial Day. Sometimes we call it Decoration Day.

The friends of the dead soldiers put flowers on their graves.

We like to remember the soldiers because they loved their country.

Can boys and girls do anything for their country? Yes, indeed, they can.

They must always speak the truth. They must always play fair.

Then they will grow to be the right kind of men and women.

The Birthday of Our Flag

June

forts

fourteenth

breeze

glory

I am going to tell you about a birthday that comes in the summer.

My birthday comes in ——. When does yours come?

This birthday comes in June.

It is the birthday of our flag, and it comes on the fourteenth of June.

Do you know how old our flag is? Yes, more than a hundred years old.



THE AMERICAN FLAG

Do you remember who made the first flag? Who told her what to do?

You remember that Mrs. Ross made many more flags.

All the soldiers loved that flag. The boys and girls loved it too.

They did not have many flags then.

One soldier had the flag on his ship at sea. His name was John Paul Jones.

When he was fighting he could see his flag.

He would say, "I will fight for my country and my flag."

It helped him to be very brave.

Now we have many, many flags. Every schoolhouse has a flag. On all

our forts you will see our flag and on many of our big buildings too.

Do you know who carried our flag to the North Pole?

Are you glad that it is your flag? Do you like to see it waving in the breeze?

Let us give three cheers for our flag. Three cheers for the "Stars and Stripes." Three cheers for "Old Glory."

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

"'Tis the star-spangled banner,
O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free,
And the home of the brave!"

—FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.

Battle of Bunker Hill

Bunker Hill	rebels	monument
Charlestown	fought	granite
surprised	seventeenth	hoisted

The minutemen were busy men.
They loved their country very much.

They were always ready to fight
for their country. They were ready
to die for their country.

It was April when the Redcoats
marched to Concord and Lexington.

In June the Redcoats were still in
Boston. The minutemen were watch-
ing them.

Any day there might be a big battle.
So our men were always ready.

One night the minutemen got ready in a hurry. They marched very, very softly. Nobody heard them.

They went to Bunker Hill in Charlestown.

They began to dig a ditch. They piled the earth up high.

What do you think they made? It was a big fort.

All night they worked hard.

In the morning the British saw the fort. They were much surprised.

“What is that?” they said. “See what the rebels have done. We shall have to fight to-day.”

The Redcoats called our men rebels.
Our men were ready for battle.
They were very brave. They were
going to fight for their country.

The Redcoats marched to Bunker
Hill. The battle began.

Oh, what a noise the guns made!
How many men were killed!

The British had more soldiers than
we had. At last our soldiers had to
give up. The battle was over.

But it was not the end of the war.
Oh, no, there were many more battles.

We call this the battle of Bunker
Hill. It was fought on the seventeenth
of June, 1775. So we call that day
"Bunker Hill Day."



BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

To-day on Bunker Hill there stands a tall monument of granite. It is two hundred and twenty feet high.

The people of our country began to build this monument fifty years after the battle. Some of the soldiers who fought in the battle were there to see the laying of the cornerstone.

It took nearly twenty years to build the monument.

As the last stone was hoisted into place, a workman rode up on it waving the "Stars and Stripes."

If you should ever climb to the top of this monument, do not forget the men who did so much for our country so many years ago.

Fourth of July

I

terrible

firecrackers

Bang! Bang! Bang! Oh, what a terrible noise! I hear fire-crackers.

I hear bells ringing. Ding-dong! Ding-dong! Ding-dong!

I hear drums beating. Rub-a-dub-dub! Rub-a-dub-dub!

I wonder what is going on. It must be the Fourth of July.

Why do we have Fourth of July? Let me tell you why. It is our country's birthday.

II

United States	trains	bonfires
July	galloped	cannon

Here is the story of our country's birthday.

It was after the ride of Paul Revere. It was after the battle of Bunker Hill.

Our soldiers were still fighting. George Washington was their general.

Our country was not free then. It was not the United States.

The king of England was our king. We called England our mother country.

The king kept sending more soldiers.

Some of our men said, "The king does not love our country any more.



INDEPENDENCE HALL

We ought to be a free country. We must be a free country."

The people talked about it and chose leaders. They told the leaders to do whatever was best for the country.

They said, "We will trust our leaders."

One man wrote a long paper. The paper said that our country was free.

Our leaders said, "What shall we do? Shall we write our names on that paper? It will mean that our country is free. Is that the best thing to do?"

When do you think they made up their minds? It was on the Fourth of July.

They said, "We will write our names on that paper. Our country is free."

Men rode on horseback to tell the glad news. There were no trains then, but the men rode fast. They galloped their horses.

How happy the people were!
They said, "Our leaders have done the right thing."

Everywhere people shouted for joy. The bells were rung. Ding-dong! Ding-dong! Ding-dong!

"Our country is free!" they said.

The men built big bonfires. The soldiers beat their drums. They fired off their cannon.

Everybody was happy. It was our country's birthday.

Now we are the United States.

Every Fourth of July we are happy because it is our country's birthday.

Will you try to remember what it means ?



THE LIBERTY BELL

A Long Play Day

errands

startling

journey

tribe

piazza

station

Dakotas

signal

telephoned



Ted was up bright and early on Saturday morning. Was not Saturday a play day, when boys and girls could have fun?

It did not take him long to eat his breakfast. The errands for his mother were soon done.

Then with his Indian suit on, the feathers hanging down his back, and his bow and arrow in his hand, he

started to meet the rest of his tribe. Ted called his tribe the Dakotas. He had heard about them in school.

He opened the kitchen door and ran down the steps. With a loud war whoop he dashed through the yard, startling poor pussy who was taking a morning nap on the piazza. He nearly upset his sister's doll carriage, dolls and all.

Behind the barn was an orchard, and under one of the apple trees the tribe was gathering, one by one — Ted and Tom, Rob and Billy, four brave young Indians.

Billy had brought a new fish line which his father had given him the

night before. After much talk they started for the pond, in Indian file, one behind the other. They had hardly reached the pond when splash went a big raindrop on Ted's nose.

No fishing to-day! It would never do to spoil their Indian suits and gay-colored feathers.

Away they ran, each Indian to his own home.

As Ted took off his Indian suit and put it away, he wondered what he would do next.

Up in the playroom his little sister was busy playing dolls. Ted watched her a minute, but thought himself too big to play with girls' toys.

In his own corner he had a wonderful track, with switches and a signal, a bridge and a train of cars. He wound up his engine and sent it on a long journey round and round the track.

Then he hitched on a freight car and filled it with blocks for lumber. With the lumber he was planning to build a station.

Ted liked this game, and when the station was done, he invited his sister to let one of her dolls have a ride.

Dolly was a little bit large for the car. With a smile on her face she started on the journey. I am sorry to tell you that dolly's journey ended in



JUST THEN MOTHER CALLED THEM TO DINNER

a wreck. Poor dolly hurt her arm, but she never winked nor cried, but smiled as sweetly as ever.

Just then mother came to call them to dinner. Before dinner was over, the rain had stopped and the sun was shining. Father telephoned that he was coming home to take a little girl and boy to the park.

"That must be you and I, Ruth," said Ted. "Come, let us get on our hats and be all ready."

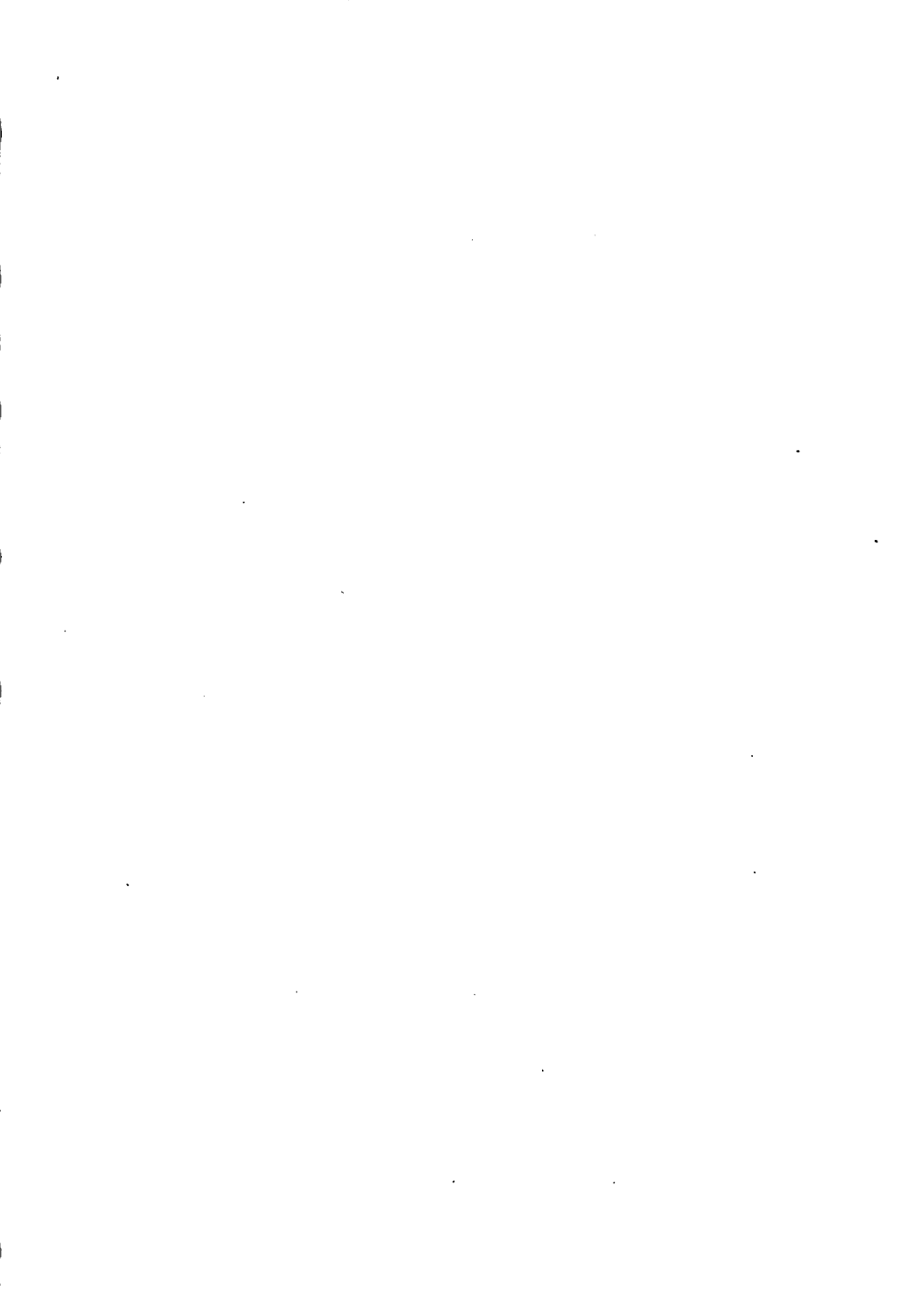
I can hardly begin to tell you of the good time that they had in the park. They saw some boys playing baseball, and in another part saw some people playing tennis.

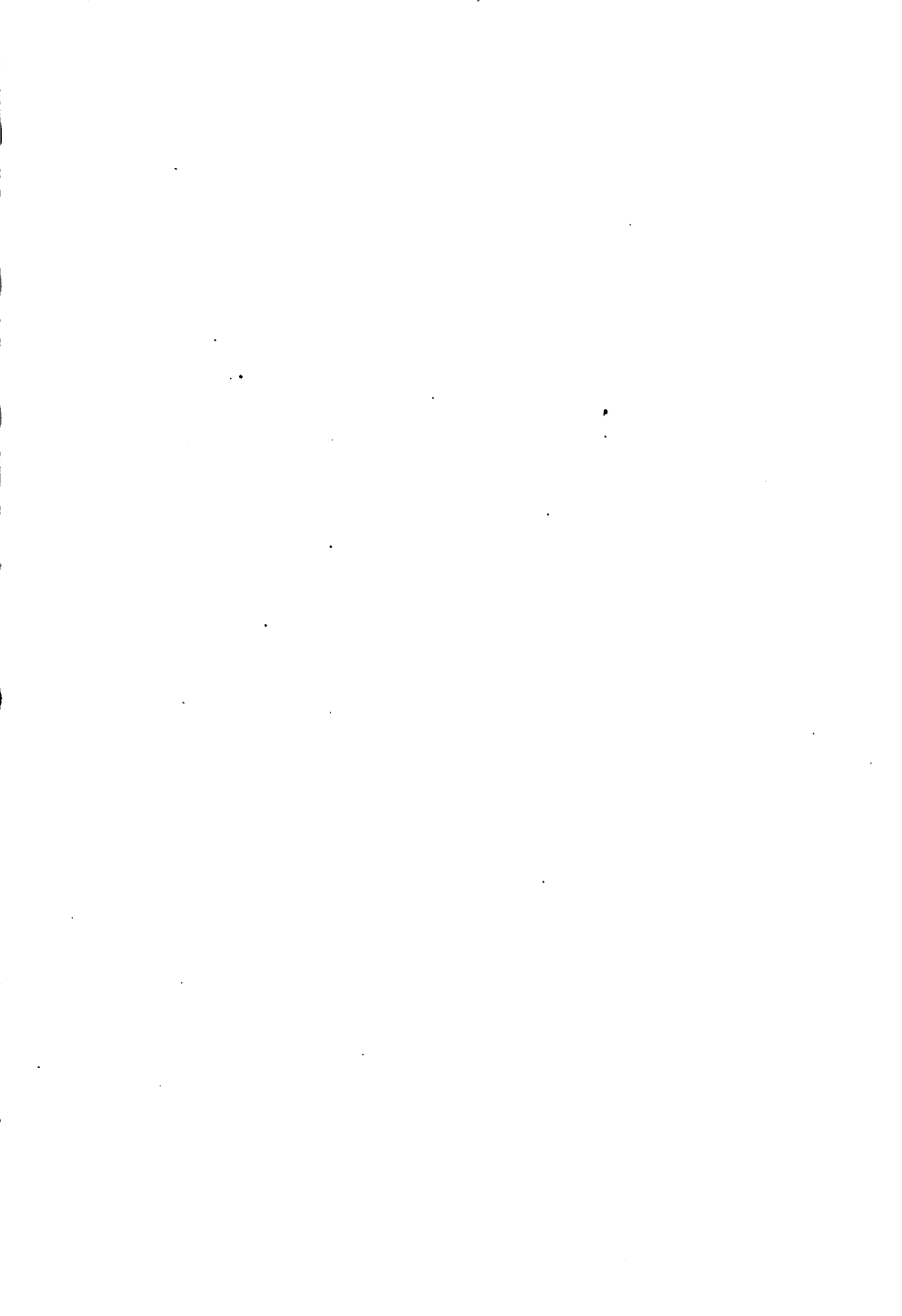
As they walked along, the little squirrels came out to see them, and Ted and Ruth fed them with peanuts.

I think they liked the bears best. It was all that father could do to get them away from the bears' den, so that they might get home in time for supper.

As Ted and Ruth walked home with their father, they both agreed that it was fun to watch bears play and to see them eat their supper.

It was a tired and sleepy boy who said to his mother as she kissed him good night, "Mother, this has been the best play day I have ever had."





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